

REMARKS

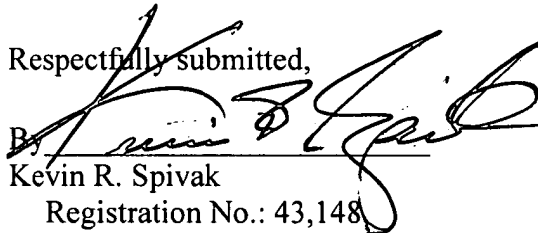
Claims 2, 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hardwick. The rejection is moot since claims 2 and 12 have been amended to incorporate claim 9, now canceled and previously allowable. Claims 15, depending from claim 12, is similarly patentable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122002700. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: March 1, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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